



To: State of Michigan House Appropriations Committee  
Representative Laura Cox, Committee Chair  
From: Charley Williams, Midwest Regional Manager, Code.org  
Date: June 4, 2018  
Subject: Computer Science Professional Development

Open computing jobs in the State of Michigan currently represent **an over \$1 billion opportunity** in terms of economic salaries, and computing jobs continue to be the number one source of all new wages nationally.

Despite this, just 13% of schools in Michigan with AP programs last year offered an AP Computer Science course. And just five new teachers graduated from Michigan colleges and universities prepared to teach computer science in 2016.

There is a stark disconnect between these economic opportunities and what we provide to students. That's why it is critical that we **amend SB 941 to specifically include computer science as a high-demand area**. While areas already included such as "information technology" and "artificial intelligence" align with computer science, they do not capture the breadth of computing skills and knowledge that students need. "Computer Science" would better clarify this and better align to the existing proposal to encourage AP participation in Computer Science elsewhere in the Marshall Plan.

We know that teachers can and have been successful teaching computer science when given high-quality professional learning opportunities. That's why we at Code.org have invested in Michigan, funding training opportunities to over 500 teachers, and providing free curricular resources and activities to over 7,000 teachers and 400,000 students.

We strongly encourage the Appropriations Committee and legislature to continue this momentum by **making computer science a leading priority for the Marshall Plan for Talent, and by funding professional development** so our students and teachers have access to the resources and skills they need to access this billion-dollar opportunity.

Thank you for your leadership,

Charley Williams, Code.org